

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2006. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, 17, 20, 24, 26 and 29 are amended, claims 18, 27 and 28 canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-12, 17, 19-26 and 29 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 18 and 24 were objected to based on minor informalities which have been corrected by this amendment.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 13-20, and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockdale (U.S. 6,575,833) in view of Muir (U.S. 5,923,249).

Stockdale describes a battery powered security monitoring system comprising a tamper detection mechanism (Security Monitoring System 322) having a tamper detection controller (Sensor Monitoring Circuitry 400 and column 10, lines 54-67).

Muir describes a door security system comprising one or more door open detection devices and first and second monitoring systems each connected to each of the one or more door open detection devices (column 1, lines 17-25 and column 2, lines 22-25 and column 3, lines 8-10), wherein a mechanical switch would be associated with the main door of the machine as an existing door detection mechanism (first monitoring system) while optical and/or mechanical sensor could be a sub-system (second monitoring system) in coupling with mechanical switch for additional tamper detection (column 2, lines 55-67 and column 3, lines 34-35).

None of the cited references, however, teach or suggest the method or apparatus described by Applicant and claimed in claims 1-12, 17, 19-26 and 29.

Applicant teaches a system and method for retrofitting gaming machines to increase security. Applicant notes on page 2 of the specification that a problem facing casinos is that it is possible to bypass security on some gaming machines simply by shorting the input of the emitter to the output of sensor. Applicant teaches that by using the approaches described in the specification (in particular with regard to Figs. 5 and 6), one can add tampering detection

security features to an existing self-service machine without requiring significant investments in the underlying software and/or hardware.

Since Applicant's approach modifies the existing gaming machine signal via the added tamper detection controller, Applicant's method and apparatus enables detecting not only an unauthorized opening the door but also tampering with the tampering detection mechanism itself. Applicant explicitly teaches, for instance, that an existing gaming machine signal can be connected through a module containing a tamper detection controller in order to detect tampering with the existing signal or with the added tamper detection mechanism. If the module containing the tamper detection controller is removed (Specification, p. 6), the existing gaming machine signal is activated, causing an error or alarm.

There is no such showing in either Stockdale or Muir. Neither Stockdale or Muir teach or suggest modifying the existing tamper detection signal in order to enhance tamper detection. In addition, although Muir partially shows adding an additional security system, the added security system does not address the same problem solved by Applicant. For instance, it does not specifically teach or suggest the enhanced use of an existing machine signal as described and claimed by Applicant.

Even considering Stockdale in view of Muir, the combination does not teach the system and method described and claimed by Applicant. Nor is the current invention obvious in view of the cited references. Claims 1, 5, 7, 17, 20, 26 and 29 have been amended to emphasize the differences between Applicant's invention and the cited references. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockdale in view of Muir, and further in view of Stillwagon (U.S. 6,496,101). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 6 are patentable as depending on a patentable base claim for the reasons discussed above. In addition, none of the references, alone or in combination, describe the use of a relay (in either a serial or parallel fashion) as described by Applicant and claimed in Claim 6.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockdale in view of Muir, and further in view of Chang (U.S. 4,833,448). Claim 12 is, however, patentable as depending on a patentable base claim. In addition, Claim 12 is patentable since none of the

cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest using a relay as described and claimed by Applicant.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockdale in view of Muir, and further in view of Hama et al. (U.S. 6,239,423). Claim 21 is, however, patentable as depending on a patentable base claim.

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockdale in view of Muir, and further in view of Carmichael (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0100659). Claims 23 and 24 are, however, patentable as depending on a patentable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6909 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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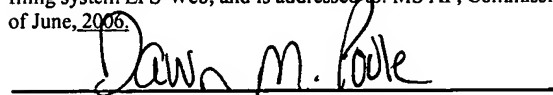
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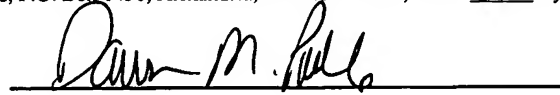


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